

What is claimed is:

1. An image forming system, comprising:

(1) an image forming apparatus to form an image on a recording material and comprising

(1-1) a first memory section to store a program to conduct a predetermined operation, and

(1-2) an image forming apparatus connecting section to connect the image forming apparatus with a network; and

(2) an administrating apparatus to administrate the image forming apparatus through the network and comprising

(2-1) an administrating memory section to store a rewrite program for the image forming apparatus, and

(2-2) an administrating apparatus connecting section to connect the administrating apparatus with the network;

wherein the image forming apparatus accesses the administrating apparatus through the network, obtains the rewrite program stored in the administrating memory section, and rewrites the program stored in the first memory section with the obtained rewrite program.

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2. The image forming system of claim 1, wherein the network is a internet.

3. The image forming system of claim 1, wherein after judging whether the rewrite program stored in the administrating memory section is a rewrite program for rewriting the program stored in the first memory section, the image forming apparatus obtains the rewrite program, or after obtaining the rewrite program from the administrating memory section, the image forming apparatus judges whether the obtained rewrite program is a rewrite program for rewriting the program stored in the first memory section and then rewrites the program stored in the first memory section.

4. The image forming system of claim 3, wherein the program and the rewrite program are correlated respectively with at least one of producing date information, storing date information, version information, history information, and type information of the image forming apparatus and whether the rewrite program is a rewrite program for rewriting the program stored in the first memory is judged based on the correlated information.

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5. The image forming systems of claim 1, wherein the administrating memory section stores a plurality of rewrite programs.

6. The image forming system of claim 1, wherein the image forming apparatus downloads the rewrite program in accordance with a download instruction transmitted from the administrating apparatus.

7. The image forming system of claim 6, wherein the download instruction is transmitted through another network different from the network to transmit the rewrite program.

8. The image forming system of claim 7, wherein the network to transmit the rewrite program is an internet and the network to transmit the download instruction is a telephone line.

9. The image forming system of claim 1, wherein the image forming apparatus is provided in a local user network on which a sub-host section having a second memory section to store the rewrite program is provided, and wherein the image forming apparatus obtains the rewrite program through the

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sub-host section and rewrites the program stored in the first memory.

10. The image forming system of claim 9, wherein the sub-host section judges whether the rewrite program stored in the administrating memory section is a rewrite program for rewriting the program stored in the first memory section and obtains the rewrite program based on the judgment.

11. The image forming system of claim 9, wherein after judging whether the rewrite program stored in the second memory section is a rewrite program for rewriting the program stored in the first memory section, the image forming apparatus obtains the rewrite program, or after obtaining the rewrite program from the second memory section, the image forming apparatus judges whether the obtained rewrite program is a rewrite program for rewriting the program stored in the first memory section and then rewrites the program stored in the first memory section.

12. The image forming system of claim 9, wherein the program and the rewrite program are correlated respectively with at least one of producing date information, storing date information, version information, history information, and

type information of the image forming apparatus and whether the rewrite program is a rewrite program for rewriting the program stored in the first memory is judged based on the correlated information.

13. The image forming system of claim 9, wherein the sub-host section obtains a rewrite program for a plurality of image forming apparatus connected to the user network from the administrating section and administers rewriting a program of the plurality of image forming apparatus.

14. The image forming system of claim 9, wherein the image forming apparatus obtains the rewrite program stored in the second memory in accordance with a download instruction transmitted from the sub-host section and rewrites the program stored in the first memory with the rewrite memory.

15. The image forming system of claim 9, wherein the sub-host section accesses the administrating apparatus in accordance with a download instruction transmitted from the administrating apparatus.

16. The image forming system of claim 1, wherein the image forming apparatus is prohibited to rewrite the program stored in the first memory during an image formation.

17. The image forming system of claim 16, wherein the image forming apparatus is prohibited to obtain the rewrite program during an image formation.

18. An image forming apparatus to form an image on a recording material, comprising:

a first memory section to store a program to conduct a predetermined operation, and

a first connecting section to connect the image forming apparatus with the network;

wherein the image forming apparatus accesses through a network an administrating apparatus provided on the network and storing a rewrite program for the image forming apparatus, obtains the rewrite program, and rewrites the program stored in the first memory section with the obtained rewrite program.

19. The image forming apparatus of claim 18, wherein the network is a internet.

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20. The image forming apparatus of claim 18, wherein after judging whether the rewrite program stored in the administrating memory section is a rewrite program for rewriting the program stored in the first memory section, the image forming apparatus obtains the rewrite program, or after obtaining the rewrite program from the administrating memory section, the image forming apparatus judges whether the obtained rewrite program is a rewrite program for rewriting the program stored in the first memory section and then rewrites the program stored in the first memory section.

21. The image forming apparatus of claim 18, wherein the network to transmit the rewrite program is an internet and the image forming apparatus comprises a second communicating device to connect with a telephone line and wherein the image forming apparatus conduct obtaining the rewrite program in accordance with a download instruction transmitted from the administrating apparatus through the telephone line.

22. The image forming apparatus of claim 18, wherein the image forming apparatus is prohibited to rewrite the program stored in the first memory during an image formation.

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23. The image forming apparatus of claim 22, wherein the image forming apparatus is prohibited to obtain the rewrite program during an image formation.

24. An image forming apparatus administrating system, comprising:

an image forming apparatus connectable with a network;
a first mail server provided on the network for the image forming apparatus;

an administrating apparatus connectable with the network; and

a second mail server provided on the network for the administrating apparatus;

wherein at least one of the image forming apparatus and the administrating apparatus is connectable with the corresponding mail server through a firewall with the network, and the image forming apparatus and the administrating apparatus access the first mail server or the second mail server with a predetermined access interval in order to transmit or receive an electronic mail including communication information for administrating the image forming apparatus, and

wherein the predetermined access interval is changeable.

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25. The image forming apparatus administrating system of claim 24, wherein the image forming apparatus and the first mail server are provided in a first local network and the administrating apparatus and the second mail server are provided in a second local network.

26. The image forming apparatus administrating system of claim 25, wherein the firewall is provide between an internet and at least one of the first local network and the second local network.

27. The image forming apparatus administrating system of claim 26, wherein the firewall is provide between an internet and each of the first local network and the second local network.

28. The image forming apparatus administrating system of claim 24, wherein the administrating apparatus and the second mail server are provided in a second local network and wherein the second mail server selects an administrating device on a basis of ID information of the image forming apparatus provided to the electronic mail transmitted from the image forming apparatus and the second mail server is

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adapted to transmit the electronic mail to the selected administrating device.

29. The image forming apparatus administrating system of claim 24, wherein each of the image forming apparatus and the administrating apparatus comprises a file producing section to automatically produce the communication information in the form of the electronic mail.

30. The image forming apparatus administrating system of claim 29, wherein after the file producing section of the administrating apparatus produces a file for a remote administration in a form of an electronic mail and transmits the electronic mail to the image forming apparatus, the administrating apparatus makes the predetermined access interval shorter and accesses the mail server periodically with the shorter access interval until a return mail comes from the image forming apparatus.

31. The image forming apparatus administrating system of claim 29, wherein after the image forming apparatus produces urgent information in a form of an electronic mail and transmits the electronic mail to the administrating apparatus, the image forming apparatus makes the

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predetermined access interval shorter and waits a return mail from the administrating apparatus by accessing the mail server periodically with the shorter access interval.

32. The image forming apparatus administrating system of claim 24, wherein the predetermined access interval is changed in accordance with a content of the communication information.

33. The image forming apparatus administrating system of claim 24, wherein after one of the image forming apparatus and the administrating apparatus transmits the electronic mail to the other one or receives the electronic mail from the other one, the one of the image forming apparatus and the administrating apparatus make the predetermined access interval longer.

34. The image forming apparatus administrating system of claim 24, wherein after a predetermined time has elapsed after one of the image forming apparatus and the administrating apparatus transmitted the electronic mail to the other one or received the electronic mail from the other one, the one of the image forming apparatus and the

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administering apparatus make the predetermined access interval shorter.

35. The image forming apparatus administering system of claim 24, wherein the electronic mail is attached with a binary file.

36. The image forming apparatus administering system of claim 24, wherein the electronic mail is attached with ID information of one of the image forming apparatus and the administering apparatus.

37. An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a producing section to produce an electronic mail including communication information to administer the image forming apparatus;

a transmitting section to transmit the electronic mail produced by the producing section to a mail server provided on a network;

a receiving section to receive the electronic mail from the mail server; and

a control section to control an access by the receiving section to the mail server ;

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wherein the control section controls a reception of the electronic mail by the receiving section such that the receiving section accesses the mail server with a predetermined interval and the control section changes the predetermined interval in accordance with a transmission of an electronic mail and a reception of an electronic mail.

38. The image forming apparatus of claim 37, wherein in the case that the transmitting section transmits the electronic mail, or in the case that the receiving section receives the electronic mail which an administrating apparatus in the network transmits on the basis of the electronic mail transmitted from the transmitting section, the control section makes the predetermined interval shorter.

39. An administrating apparatus, comprising:

a transmitting section to transmit an electronic mail produced including communication information to administrate the image forming apparatus provided on a network to a mail server provided on the network;

a receiving section to access the mail server provided on the network and receive the electronic mail transmit from the image forming apparatus; and

a control section to control the access by the receiving section to the mail server;

wherein the control section controls a reception of the electronic mail by the receiving section such that the receiving section accesses the mail server with a predetermined interval and the control section changes the predetermined interval in accordance with a transmission of an electronic mail to the image forming apparatus and a reception of an electronic mail from the image forming apparatus.

40. An administrating apparatus of claim 39, wherein in the case that the image forming apparatus transmits a return mail on the basis of the electronic mail transmitted from the transmitting section, the control section makes the predetermined interval shorter.

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